

**PROCEEDINGS OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON
Tuesday, 17th July, 2023
OF
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**



**Indian Red Cross Society
National Headquarters**

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN CULTURAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI

17th July, 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CEREMONIAL SESSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY HELD ON 17th JULY 2023 AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN
CULTURAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI

The dignitaries seated on the dais were: -

Smt. Droupadi Murmu	Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble President of Indian Red Cross Society
Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Hon'ble Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society (Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India)
Dr. Anant Pandhare	Vice Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society
Sh. Sudhansh Pant	OSD, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India
Sh. R.K. Jain	Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society

Hon'ble Governors and Lt. Governors of their respective States and UT's, OSD Health and Family Welfare, Members of the Managing Body of the IRCS, Heads of the Delegations of the IFRC and ICRC, awardees, delegates, guests, observers and other distinguished dignitaries attended the ceremonial session from 11.00 AM- 12.00 Noon.

Following the arrival of the Hon'ble President, the Presidential Band played the National Anthem.

With the permission of the Hon'ble President, Sh. R.K. Jain, Secretary General initiated the proceedings and delivered the welcome address.

Welcome Address by Secretary General, Shri R. K. Jain, IAS (Retd.)

Respected Hon'ble President of India & President of Indian Red Cross Society, Smt. Draupadi Murmu jee,

Hon'ble Union Minister of Health, Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers and Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya jee,

Hon'ble Governors & Lt. Governors,

OSD Health, Sh. Sudhansh Pant jee,

Vice Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, Dr Anant Pandhare jee,

Members of the National Managing Body, Heads of the Delegations of the IFRC & ICRC, delegates, awardees, guests, observers, ladies, and gentlemen...

It is my privilege and honor to welcome all of you and to express the deep appreciation of the Indian Red Cross Society to the Hon'ble President for agreeing to preside over the Ceremonial Session of the Annual General Meeting and to give away the prizes to best performing branches & distinguished Red Crossers.

Madam, your generous offer to host the AGM, including the Business Session, in Rashtrapati Bhavan, indeed shows your support and interest in the humanitarian work of Indian Red Cross.

I would also like to extend a hearty welcome to our Hon'ble Chairman and thank him for his visionary guidance and leadership.

Today I feel proud to say that Indian Red Cross has lived up to its commitment and contributed to the betterment of the society. Let me use this opportunity to share some of the activities and initiatives of Indian Red Cross Society.

Disaster response continues to be one of the core activities. Indian Red Cross Society have responded to all kinds of emergencies, including cyclones and floods, by releasing relief items, assisting the authorities to evacuate people at-risk, setting up of relief camps and by providing food, water & medical aid.

As we all know, COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges and IRCS quickly adapted its ongoing programs to respond to the situation. With over 50,000 volunteers, IRCS worked round the clock to ensure an uninterrupted supply of blood services. The branches distributed medicines, food, ran quarantine and isolation

centers, vaccinated people and helped in conducting covid tests. IRCS was also designated by the Govt. of India as the sole consignee of all the foreign aid received in kind from abroad.

With the support of our international partners, IRCS has been able to provide 69 ambulances, 59 blood collection vans and 39 mobile health units and testing vans to various Red Cross branches in 27 states and UTs. With these, more than 160 additional vehicles, the field branches are now better equipped to serve the needs of their communities.

IRCS is running more than hundred blood centres and organizing blood collection camps in different parts of the country. During the year 21-22, Blood Centre at the National Headquarters provided around 16000 units of blood & its components, free of cost, to the patients admitted in Government Hospitals, Thalassemic and Hemophilics.

As one of its major initiatives, National Headquarters has started online examination of First Aid, on pilot basis in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. So far over 25,000 candidates have been registered and more than 20,000 certificates have already been issued, which have been downloaded by the successful candidates. After the system is validated during pilot phase, it will be rolled out in the entire country, which will streamline the entire process.

IRCS has signed MoUs with 26 Universities in few states including Punjab, Himachal Pradesh & Rajasthan, so that the students at these Universities learn, among other things, humanitarian principles.

Indian Red Cross Society has covered around three thousand patients in different states with adherence rate of above 95% for prevention of multiple drug resistance of TB patients.

Madam, we are ensuring transparency and accountability in the National Headquarters and also placing details of our income & expenditure in public domain. We have also adopted technology and digitization for the efficient functioning of IRCS.

I would conclude by saying that Indian Red Cross with a network of more than 1100 branches continues to provide a wide range of services and programs across the country, for which I thank all the members, volunteers, staff and stake holders of Indian Red Cross.

With these words, I once again welcome all of you.

Thank You.

After the address of the Secretary General, Sh. R.K. Jain, the Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizer Minister and Chairman of IRCS, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Hon'ble President of India & President of Indian Red Cross Society with a Portrait of the Hon'ble President, made up of the traditional art of Mithilanchal, Bihar, Sikki Art.

After the felicitation of the Hon'ble President of India & President of IRCS Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the Ceremonial session.

**Address by the Chairman IRCS and Minister of Health & Family Welfare,
Govt. of India**

Respected Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu,
Distinguished Hon'ble Governors,
Vice Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. Anant Pandhare,
Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, Sh. R.K. Jain,
OSD Health, Sh. Sudhansh Pant,
Esteemed Colleagues, Members of the Indian Red Cross Society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to welcome you all today. I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Hon'ble President and express my gratitude to everyone present here, both physically and virtually. Your presence symbolizes our collective commitment to the humanitarian values that unite us.

India is a land of immense diversity, and we cherish the principle of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This principle underscores our efforts to make modern health facilities accessible to everyone, especially the underprivileged. As we gather here today, we reaffirm our dedication to this noble cause.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched the Sick Cell Anemia Eradication Campaign 2047, and we are progressing steadily towards this goal. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, which has established a comprehensive network of 1.60 lakh health and wellness centers across the country, will play a crucial role in combating sickle cell disease. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to improve healthcare accessibility for all.

I am grateful to the Indian Red Cross Society for their exceptional work in realizing

the vision of a healthy India. The Red Cross has been a beacon of hope during calamities and crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Red Cross volunteers risked their lives to provide relief and medical supplies, demonstrating the organization's dedication to humanitarian values. Their relentless efforts remind us of the critical role humanitarian organizations play in times of need.

The Red Cross regularly organizes blood donation camps and raises awareness about preventing diseases like cancer, anemia, and thalassemia. Last year, the Hon'ble President launched the TB-Free India campaign, which has seen remarkable progress thanks to the efforts of Governors and the dedication of Red Cross volunteers. The Indian Red Cross Society continues to play a vital role in our fight against TB, contributing significantly to our public health initiatives.

Floods are a major challenge in India, affecting over 40 million hectares of land. The Indian Red Cross has been instrumental in flood management. It has been overcoming numerous obstacles to provide aid to the people affected by flood. Their swift response in disaster management is a testament to their preparedness and commitment to alleviating suffering during such crisis.

The Red Cross's welfare activities include maternal and child healthcare through hospitals, sub-centers, and child development centers. Their training centers equip communities with essential skills in home nursing, first aid, and midwifery. These initiatives not only improve healthcare delivery but also empower communities with the knowledge to manage their health effectively.

Looking ahead, we aim to elevate the Indian Red Cross to greater heights, expanding its reach and impact globally. Enhancing our resources and embracing digital transformation will strengthen our capabilities and attract greater support and participation. We aspire for the Indian Red Cross Society to receive international recognition, such as World Peace Award, for its exemplary work and setting a global benchmark for humanitarian efforts.

Lastly, I extend my sincere congratulations to the award-winning Red Cross branches and distinguished Red Crossers recognized for their outstanding contributions today. Your dedication sets an inspiring example for all of us and embodies the spirit of service that defines the Red Cross.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment. Together, we will continue to strive for a healthier and more resilient India. Jai Hind!

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Hon'ble President then gave away medals & shields to the members, volunteers and the branches for their exemplary services and outstanding contribution. Awards were also given for their work in the field of voluntary blood donation for the year 2021-22.

INDIAN RED CROSS MEDAL (GOLD MEDAL) - 2021-22

This is a gold-plated medal and is the highest award of Indian Red Cross Society. This award is given to anybody who has provided services for the humanitarian cause of Red Cross. These awards are conferred upon anybody who has rendered not less than 15 years of service to the Red Cross without any discrimination based on caste, creed, colour, race, position, or gender. The Society may give up to two medals in one year.

Following received the awards :-

For the year

2021-22

Sl.No.	Branch	Name of the awardee
1.	Telangana, Mahabubnagar District	Dr.L. N.Ambati Natraj
2.	Andhra Pradesh, Krishna District	Dr.Goparaju Samaram

FUND RAISING & MEMBERSHIP SHIELD

The two shields, which are given for Fund Raising & Membership, were given as under:

Year	1 st Position (State Branch) Large Shield	1 st Position (UT Branch) Large Shield
2021-22	Odisha	Jammu & Kashmir

Fund Raising and Membership Shield (Small)

Year	2 nd Position (State Branch) Small Shield
2021-22	Haryana

BLOOD DONATION SHIELDS

For collection of highest number of voluntary blood units, following branches were awarded shields:

Year	Name of State Branch
2021-22	Gujarat

For Maximum Blood collection in proportion to its population

Year	Name of State/UT Branch
2021-22	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu

Following the presentation of Awards, the Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble President of Indian Red Cross Society delivered her Presidential Address.

Address by Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble President of Indian Red Cross Society, Smt. Droupadi Murmu

I'm delighted to be here with all of you volunteers and delegates from all regions of the country. I want to extend my sincere congratulations to all the awardees and Red Cross employees who received awards today.

Today, three branches of the Red Cross from Odisha, Jammu-Kashmir and Haryana have been awarded. Along with this, Dr. Ambati Nataraj and Dr. Goparaju Samram have also been honored today. All the awardees have demonstrated excellent examples of how individuals and institutions may support the selfless cause of blood donation.

This year, in April, I visited my village in Odisha. I saw young children carrying the Red Cross emblem when I reached there. The Red Cross emblem was being carried by young children who were standing nearby. Through such initiatives, kids also learn the value of blood donation and develop a sense of altruism. In Indian tradition,

altruism has been regarded as one of the most significant human values. Our ancient literature contains instances of organ donation for the good of the entire civilization.

In our culture, service to the people is the service to God (Nar Seva Narayan Seva). Today's award winners embody such values of welfare of humanity embedded in Indian culture. I hope that others will get inspiration from their work.

For more than a century the Indian Red Cross Society has provided humanitarian aid. The Red Cross has proven its dedication via relief efforts in the wake of natural catastrophes and medical emergencies.

You all know that an appropriate and sufficient amount of blood is required at the time of any accident or crisis. I am told that the Indian Red Cross Society, through more than one hundred blood donation centres and mobile campaigns across the country, is meeting about 10 percent of India's blood-related needs to save lives. By collecting blood safely for those in need, you all are playing an excellent role and helping to promote the culture of voluntary blood donation. I appreciate your efforts in organizing blood donation drive, creating awareness and ensuring safe and adequate blood supply across the country.

Even today, in the minds of some people, there are many apprehensions regarding blood donation. To encourage people for this great social cause, it is necessary to clear the apprehensions and misconceptions about blood donation. I want you to dispel the myths around blood donation and engage everyone, especially youth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been exceptionally challenging for the country and the world at large. During this crisis, the Indian Red Cross Society rendered important services. This organisation assisted in distributing accurate information and mobilising resources to assist individuals afflicted by the pandemic. People linked with this organisation assisted the district administration in raising awareness and providing help without caring for their own lives. Covid-warriors in the country included members of the Indian Red Cross Society.

India has created a world record by giving more than 220 crore vaccine doses in a short span of time to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. But it is important for us to always be ready to face the challenges of the future. It is very important that we adopt innovation and adapt ourselves according to the changing circumstances. Revolutionary changes can be brought in humanitarian aid with the help of technology. Red Cross Society can also use the potential of digital technologies to

expand its reach.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate all the members and volunteers of Indian Red Cross Society for their dedication and service towards humanity. Your dedication, compassion and selfless spirit towards human service inspires all countrymen.

I hope you will continue to work for the cause of humanity's welfare. My best wishes to all of you for your bright future and congratulate all of you.

Thank you, Jai Hind! Jai Bharat.

Thereafter, the Proceedings of the first combined session i.e. ceremonial session of the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society were concluded with the National Anthem.

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BUSINESS SESSION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND SESSION i.e. BUSINESS SESSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY HELD ON 17th JULY 2023 AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI.

The dignitaries seated on the dais were: -

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Hon'ble Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society (Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India)
Sh. Rajendra Arlekar	Governor of Bihar
Sh. C. P. Radhakrishnan	Governor of Jharkhand
Anusuiya Uikey	Governor of Manipur
Sh. Lakshman Prasad Acharya	Governor of Sikkim
Sh. Mangubhai C. Patel	Governor of Madhya Pradesh
Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan	Governor of Telangana
Prof. Ganeshi Lal	Governor of Odisha
Sh. Sudhansh Pant	OSD, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI
Dr. Anant Pandhare	Vice Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society
Sh. R.K. Jain	Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society

The General Body assembled for the Business Session in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 17th July 2023 from 12.00- 1.00 PM. The Business Session was chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Chairman of IRCS and Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, GoI.

Members of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society, delegates, observers, awardees were present in the Business Session.

Sh. R.K Jain, the Secretary General once again welcomed the Hon'ble HFM and Hon'ble Governors present on the dais along with all the other delegates, observers and awardees for attending the Business Session. He thanked the Hon'ble President for kindly hosting the Ceremonial Session at Rashtrapati Bhavan auditorium which added ostentation to the meeting.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, Sh.R.K.Jain, Secretary General presented the following agenda for consideration and adoption by the General Body.

1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the last Annual General Meeting held on 17th May, 2022.
2. Presentation, consideration and adoption of;
 - i. Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts for IRCS for the year 2021-22.
 - ii. Annual Budget Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year 2023-24.
 - iii. Approval for the appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the year 2023-24.

Statutory Agenda

First item was **confirmation of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of IRCS held on 17th May, 2022.**

Confirmation of Proceedings

The Secretary General IRCS announced; "We have circulated the proceedings of the last AGM held on 17th May 2022, electronically. The printed copies have also been provided to the branches as well as these are published on our website, but no comments have been received from anyone. As a result, we accept it as confirmed." Attendees confirmed the proceedings by nodding and waving their hands.

Adoption of Annual Reports

The Secretary General announced that the second agenda item is the adoption of the Indian Red Cross Society's Annual Report for the year 2021-2022. Secretary General said, "These Annual Reports were already circulated to branches electronically. The National Managing Body approved it in a meeting attended by all members of the Managing Body. So, if there are no comments, we can move forward with this. We will also post it on our website. The delegates waved their hands affirming their consent. Accordingly, the report was adopted.

Adoption of Annual Accounts

The Secretary General announced that the adoption of the Indian Red Cross Society's Audited Annual Accounts for fiscal year 2021-22 would be the next item on the agenda. The audited annual accounts, he said, had been approved by the Indian Red Cross-National Managing Body and had been circulated. Because there are no comments, we can adopt the Annual Accounts too. With the consent of the delegates the Annual Accounts for the year 2021-22 were adopted.

Adoption of Annual Budget

Following the reports & accounts for the year 2021-22, the annual budget estimates for the year 2023-24 were presented. The Secretary General stated, "The Annual Budget Estimates of Income and Expenditure of the IRCS for the year 2023-24 have been approved by the Finance Committee and the Managing Body and these have also been circulated." Accordingly, the General Body adopted the Annual Budget.

Appointment of Statutory Auditors

Appointment of Statutory Auditors for fiscal year 2023-24 was the next item on the agenda. The Secretary General informed that the Finance Committee of Managing Body had approved and has recommended the appointment of M/s A. J. Mohan & Associates as IRCS Statutory Auditors for two FY i.e 2020-21 & 2021-22. This firm has agreed to undertake audit at a nominal fee of Rs. 24,000 per annum, which is less than half of the amount we have been paying in the past. He added that it was decided in the last AGM held in May 2022 that a CA firm should be appointed as a Statutory Auditor for maximum period of 3 years. IRCS requested this firm and they have consented to do annual audit for one more year i.e for FY 23-24 at the same cost of Rs 24000 including GST. He also informed that the appointment of M/s A. J.

Mohan & Associates as Statutory Auditor of IRCS for the year 23-24 has also been approved by the Hon'ble Chairman. Then Secretary General requested the General Body of IRCS to kindly approve the appointment of M/s A. J. Mohan & Associates as the Statutory Auditors of IRCS NHQ for the FY 2023-24. The General Body approved the proposal.

After the consideration and adoption of the agenda items the Hon'ble Chairman Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya was requested to kindly present the "Certificates of Merit" to the volunteers and members of the Indian Red Cross Society for the year 2021-2022.

Presentation of Certificate of Merit

The Rules for award of certificate of merit was announced as below; -

"As per rules, there is provision for the distribution of certificates of merit to distinguished Red Crossers who have served Red Cross for a minimum of 10 years. Certificates of merit are given to a maximum of six people in one year". It was announced that the National Headquarters' Awards Committee have recommended the certificates of merit to six eminent Red Crossers from various branches, which have been approved by the Hon'ble Chairman.

The Hon'ble Chairman then presented the certificates: -

RED CROSS MERIT CERTIFICATE

Red Cross Certificate of Merit for the year 2021-22 was given to the following: -

Sl. No.	Name of the Candidate	State Branch
1	Prof. Dr. Dilip Dasharath Karad	Maharashtra
2	Sh. Bijay Kumar Singh	Jharkhand
3	Sh. Premraj Nial@Nihal Singh	Odisha
4	Dr. Anil Garg	Uttar Pradesh
5	Sh. Kalyandas Lilaram Ramchandani	Gujarat
6	Dr. Laishram Manglem Singh	Manipur

After the presentation of Red Cross Merit Certificates to the distinguished Red Crossers, one Gold Medal that pertained to the year 2020 was awarded to Dr. Praful Shiroya from Gujarat, who has rendered 23 years' service to the Red Cross, by the Hon'ble Chairman Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

After the presentation of all the awards the Secretary General, with the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman requested the Hon'ble Governors present in the meeting, both virtually & physically, to give their suggestions and ideas to improve the working of Red Cross in the country.

Brief Addresses by the Hon'ble Governors :-

Governor of Bihar, Sh. Rajendra Arlekar:

Welcome, everyone, to this meeting!

Commendable work is being done by all of us. Representatives from different states, who have done good work, and also those who have done less work, would carry positive energy from here. Each of us has participated in blood donation programs and medical camps organised by our State Branches.

I have a small suggestion. Whenever we have medical camps, they shouldn't just be for allopathy; we should also organise Ayurveda camps because this is also a form of medicine, one that we have cherished for centuries, and this also needs to be propagated.

Governor of Jharkhand, Sh. C. P. Radhakrishnan:

Namaskar!

Red Cross is the largest voluntary organisation serving humanity in the world. My Jharkhand state branch needs to step up its efforts. We want more and more district branches to actively participate in different activities.

Encouragement of blood donation programme is necessary. People also need to be made aware of the importance of organ donation. Malnutrition also must be eliminated, so we are experimenting with the distribution of protein rich food items to the needy and vulnerable.

In Jharkhand, we are working to eradicate tuberculosis. Our Red Cross has to be strengthened so that it can serve the society better through its volunteers. Thank you.

Governor of Manipur, Smt. Anusuiya Uikey:

Namaskar!

First and foremost, I would want to express my gratitude to you, Hon'ble Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society and Hon'ble Union Health Minister for inviting the country's Governors and Presidents of the Red Cross State and UT branches.

Red Cross Society plays a crucial role in providing assistance to those in need during times of tragedy and hardship. Their dedication to humanitarian service has made a significant impact on countless lives around the world. It's inspiring to see organizations like the Red Cross stepping up support to the most vulnerable section of our society.

Red Cross has made invaluable contribution in times of crisis and need. Indeed, their dedication and selflessness shines as they tirelessly work to provide relief and assistance to those affected by various calamities, including challenges posed by pandemics like COVID-19. It's important to acknowledge the efforts of all the members, office bearers, and volunteers who work tirelessly at the district and block levels to ensure that help reaches those who need it the most. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them for their unwavering commitment to serve humanity.

Governor of Sikkim, Sh. Lakshman Prasad Acharya:

I appreciate and congratulate the coordination committee of the Red Cross Society for having orchestrated such a commendable program. Today, we are honored to have the presence of the esteemed Union Health Minister, Mandaviya Ji, alongside our respected Governors and other distinguished guests.

Undoubtedly, it's a moment filled with significance as we embrace the ethos of "Khayenge Ghar ka, karenge samaj ka" (We will eat at home but work for society). The aspiration to contribute for the betterment of our nation, society, culture, and tradition should be the guiding principle for every individual. I am fortunate to witness some remarkable initiatives taking shape in the state of Sikkim.

The Hon'ble Governor of Bihar has offered a valuable suggestion emphasizing the importance of integrating alternative medical approaches into our healthcare system.

By leveraging Sikkim's unique natural resources, there's opportunity of promoting health and well-being among people from all walks of life.

It's heartening to witness the proactive efforts of the Red Cross in Sikkim. Work of the branch to provide relief services, like blankets to those affected by disasters, is commendable.

I am happy to hear about the endeavors of Red Cross branches for promoting blood donation and raising awareness about tuberculosis (TB).

In our small state we encounter certain challenges. However, I believe that establishing essential infrastructure such as blood banks and increasing the availability of ambulances would significantly enhance our capacity.

My heartfelt congratulations to all the deserving recipients of honors and awards. I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Health Minister for organizing this event.

Thank you, Jai Bharat, Jai Hind.

Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Sh. Mangubhai C. Patel:

A warm welcome to all the esteemed participants of this forum.

I'm speaking from my personal experience. Since childhood I have seen representatives from the Red Cross Society coming to my school to help students. I feel that even a single rupee received in assistance communicated a great Red Cross message.

I believe it's essential to extend recognition to the dedicated individuals working at every level, be it the province or district. Such recognition acknowledges their efforts. Additionally, I propose convening meetings with office bearers from each district unit at least twice a year. These discussions would focus on enhancing the effectiveness and success of our endeavors, as well as strategizing ways to engage more people in the noble cause of serving humanity. By actively involving individuals from all walks of life, we can ignite widespread interest and participation in humanitarian services in the country. Therefore, concerted efforts should be made to engage and empower every district independently.

Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan:

Good afternoon, Hon'ble Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Ji,
Esteemed Governors, and distinguished members of the Red Cross.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the recipients of awards.

As the Governor of Telangana, I would like to highlight a couple of things. Firstly, in Telangana, we have actively promoted the linkage of every district headquarters with Janaushadhi stores, aligning with the vision of our esteemed Health Minister who has championed the cause of Janaushadhi. As a physician myself, I understand the significant impact that the cost of medications can have on patients, often hindering their ability to complete the full course of treatment.

Additionally, Telangana Red Cross has initiated a program called the CPR Challenge, focusing on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. It is imperative that every member receives training in CPR. Additionally, we are actively promoting the practice of first aid and blood donation across the state. It is crucial to inspire both Junior Red Cross (JRC) and Youth Red Cross (YRC) members to volunteer for humanitarian causes, fostering a culture of service and compassion amongst the youth.

I urge the organization for hosting conferences at the national, state, and district levels. These would serve as platforms for discussion, collaboration, and planning regarding the expansion of Red Cross membership to colleges and enhance the reach and impact of the Red Cross.

Developing an app in multiple languages can serve as a powerful tool for inspiring younger generations and raising awareness about Red Cross initiatives.

I express my gratitude for the ambulances and other medical vehicles provided by our National Red Cross Headquarters. While serving tribal villages, we encountered challenges with accessibility to hospitals through ambulances. As a solution, we acquired 2-Wheeler ambulances, which proved to be invaluable in reaching remote areas. Considering that states like Telangana have a significant tribal population, I believe it would greatly benefit such regions if the Red Cross NHQ could supplement our 2-Wheeler ambulances/fleet.

Thank you so much.

Governor of Odisha, Prof. Ganeshi Lal:

Greetings to all!

The perspective of the Red Cross Society as a recollection of consciousness and an association with the divine, is appreciated. Viewing the divine as your valentine and aligning this sentiment with the purpose of the Red Cross adds a layer of spirituality to its mission. It highlights the essence of service to humanity as a manifestation of divine love.

I was thrilled to hear about the experiment conducted in Odisha on 31 students particularly at Randhawa Maha Vidyalaya in Kendrapara. By multifaceted treatment eight individuals experienced enhanced vision, while four achieved full vision.

The initiative taken by the Odisha State Branch to extend this project across the region is truly commendable. It is an invaluable service to the community.

Pranam!

After listening to the Hon'ble Governors present and thanking them Sh. R.K. Jain requested the Hon'ble Governors who were virtually present, to share their thoughts.

Governor of Rajasthan, Sh. Kalraj Mishra:

It's an honor to address all the esteemed dignitaries present in the AGM and the recipients of awards.

The Indian Red Cross Society holds a significant place in the hearts and minds of the people, providing humanitarian services. In times of disaster and crisis, the attention of the people moves towards the Red Cross, recognizing its unwavering commitment to providing assistance and support. This credibility reflects the trust and confidence that the society has earned through its dedicated efforts over the years.

The pandemic has demonstrated the invaluable importance of genuine humanitarian service even amidst challenging times. It's evident that the society's dedication to serving humanity transcends borders, racial or religious differences .

While blood donation and health-related initiatives are vital, it's essential to acknowledge the specific needs of marginalized communities, particularly in tribal

areas like those in Rajasthan. Attention of Red Cross is crucial in these regions, where various health concerns prevail and where the well-being of individuals with illnesses require special care and consideration. By extending its reach and services to these communities, the Red Cross can truly make a significant difference in improving lives and promoting health equity.

The initiation of the Nikshay Mitra Yojana campaign to combat tuberculosis is a commendable effort towards improving public health in Rajasthan. It's heartening to hear that a significant portion of the population in these areas has been reached. By actively participating in campaigns like the Nikshay Mitra Yojana, the Red Cross Society is contributing significantly to the collective efforts aimed at eliminating tuberculosis.

Fostering greater reconciliation and solidarity with disadvantaged communities in the backward regions of Rajasthan is essential for their upliftment and well-being. It's imperative that concerted efforts are made in this direction to address the challenges and inequalities faced by these communities. By working collaboratively to extend support, resources, and opportunities to those in need, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Thank you.

Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik:

Greetings to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and all the esteemed Governors in attendance today.

Arunachal Pradesh is susceptible to heavy rainfall and consequent landslides due to its unstable terrain. Addressing this challenge requires measures such as early warning systems, conducting risk assessment, and implementing sustainable land management practices. Additionally, investing in infrastructure resilience and community preparedness can help mitigate the impact of natural disasters in the region.

It's essential to extend attention and support to address natural disaster-related challenges. There is need to uplift and empower vulnerable populations such as differently abled individuals, children with special needs, the homeless. Red Cross operation in my state ensures a holistic approach to humanitarian work, promoting inclusivity and addressing diverse needs within the community. This comprehensive

approach reflects a deep commitment to serving all members of society, especially those who are most marginalized and in need of support.

Thank you very much, Jai Hind.

After the address of all the Hon'ble Governors Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble HFM addressed the meeting.

Address by the Hon'ble Chairman IRCS & Health & Family Welfare Minister

Respected Governors, distinguished guests, and esteemed members of the Red Cross Society. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the Governors who are present today, both in person and virtually. Your valuable suggestions and guidance are immensely appreciated.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has been recognized for their outstanding contributions. Your decades of dedication to serving humanity—whether it be 40 years, 30 years, or 10 years—are truly commendable.

Today, I reiterate my belief that the Indian Red Cross can win the World Peace Prize. Service is not just a word; it is our culture. Especially in the health sector, service has a special significance. For India, the health sector is a service to the nation, not a business.

Service is ingrained in our culture, and by building on this foundation, we can showcase our talent both nationally and globally. The Red Cross, established to help those injured in the World War, continues to embody this spirit of service. With the Hon'ble President as its President of India and the Hon'ble Governors as state Chairpersons, we have the support needed to serve the needy and vulnerable. We must utilize the Red Cross to its fullest potential.

There is a critical need to expand our services at the state, district, and block levels. This expansion is both necessary and an opportunity. We need to work more transparently than ever before. Transparency and inclusivity will enhance our effectiveness and ensure our efforts reach those who need them the most.

We should provide ample opportunities to the younger generation to contribute and grow within the Red Cross Society. If someone is working effectively at the block level, they should have opportunities at the district level, and similarly for our district branch people who are doing fantastic work should have opportunities to rise & shine

at state and national level. Transparency and openness will encourage the whole society to join us in our mission.

Opportunities to charity is abundant, and we receive global support to deliver the services. We should also utilize the 2% CSR provision in our corporate sector. Companies looking to invest in CSR should prioritize the Red Cross. Much work must be done in this regard.

Under the large umbrella of the Red Cross Society, we can leverage resources and support from our Hon'ble Governors, who serve as Presidents of the society at the State/UT branches. Monthly meetings with the Governors to present our activities and seek their guidance can be highly beneficial.

Additionally, organizing a three-day contemplation meeting in one state, forming groups to tackle specific issues, and preparing detailed presentations on their findings and recommendations can help us create a strategic direction for the next five to ten years. This collaborative approach will foster comprehensive planning and ensure we tap into the collective strength and enthusiasm of our community.

Thinking about the future of the Red Cross over the next 10 years, we can guide ourselves towards meaningful and lasting change. Adopting a forward-looking approach and creating a comprehensive plan can transform our work and ensure sustainable impact.

Following the address by Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble HFM, Vice Chairman, IRCS, Dr. Anant Pandhare proposed vote of thanks.

Vote of Thanks by Dr. Anant Pandhare, Vice Chairman, IRCS

Hon'ble Union Health Minister and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya ji,

All respected Governors sitting on the dais and brothers and sisters,

As I look at the strength that has gathered today from all around the nation, my chest is wide. I can sense a kind of power being created by this strength.

I'm extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Chairman, sir, for the guidance he provided. I would like to thank all the Hon'ble Governors for their magnanimous presence during this session of the Annual General Meeting. I am also grateful to them for their valuable insightful advice and guidance.

In today's program, I want to assure the Hon'ble Chairman that, over the next year, I and other members of our organization will work very hard to raise the Red Cross Society to a higher level, particularly in the sphere of humanitarian service. In the upcoming year, I will myself visit to every state to pursue this goal.

The Hon'ble Minister today made a very remarkable analysis of the service to humanity, I assure him of our participation and commitment towards it.

I conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all members.

After the vote of thanks by the Vice Chairman, all the delegates and members were invited to proceed for lunch.

The Hon'ble Chairman obliged all by participating in photo session with the members and delegates before departing from the venue.